




FEBRUARY 22, 2021

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FEBRUARY  
22, 2021

PURSUANT TO THE FOREGOING WARRANT, THE LEGAL  
VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM MET AT THE  
J.R.BRIGGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 96 WILLIAMS  
ROAD . THE TOWN MODERATOR , KEITH GLENNY, OPENED  
THE MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.



PROCEEDINGS

**ARTICLE**

**1. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM WATER RETAINED EARNINGS – OTHER PURPOSE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings a sum of \$135,000 to Water other purpose, or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II  
**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** Move that the town vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings a sum of \$135,000 to Water other purpose, or act in relation thereto:

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

**EXPLANATION:** The Water Enterprises Fund authorized this article at a meeting October 10, 2018 to cover the required Water Treatment Plant Software Upgrade. The amount is half of the total cost with Winchendon covering the other portion. This transfer needs to be done so that the fund does not run into a deficit. There is enough money in water retained earnings to cover this obligation.

**VOTE** Simple Majority  
**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED “MAJORITY” YES**

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**VOTE**

☐ Unanimous ☒ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

**ARTICLE**

**2. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FREE CASH – BENEFITS HEALTH INSURANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash sum of \$73,000 to the Benefits Health Insurance Account (#0010-914-5171-0000), or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II  
**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$73,000 to the Benefits Health Insurance Account (#0010-914-5171-0000).

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

**EXPLANATION:** The request is to cover the unexpected additional cost of health insurance premiums. It appears that more employees are taking this benefit than in previous years. There is enough money in certified free cash to take care of this obligation.

**VOTE** Simple Majority  
**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED “UNANIMOUS” YES**

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**VOTE**

☒ Unanimous   ☐ Majority Voice   ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice   ☐ Count   \_\_\_\_\_ Yays   \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

**ARTICLE**

**3. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FREE CASH – TOWN PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$16,825 to the Town Public Safety Building Account (#0010-196-5240-0011), or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Bill Johnson  
**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$16,825 to the Town Public Safety Building Account (#0010-196-5240-0011).

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	Yes	--

**EXPLANATION:** The public safety building needs to upgrade the HVAC controller and the software to be energy efficient. The old model and software is discontinued and no longer supported by the vendor. There is enough money in certified free cash to take care of this obligation.

**VOTE** Simple Majority  
**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED “UNANIMOUS” YES**

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**VOTE**

☒ Unanimous   ☐ Majority Voice   ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice   ☐ Count   \_\_\_\_\_Yays   \_\_\_\_\_Nays

**ARTICLE**

**4. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FREE CASH – CAPITAL POLICE VEHICLE UNMARKED**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$60,000 to the Capital Account Police Unmarked Vehicle, or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II  
**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$60,000 to the Capital Account Police Unmarked Vehicle.

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	Yes	--

**EXPLANATION:** Explanation. The request to replace the unmarked cruiser was scheduled to be replaced in accordance with the police capital plan. There is grant funding for \$5,000 to cover the additional cost for a hybrid vehicle which would be the first hybrid vehicle in the police department. There is enough money in certified free cash to take care of this request.

**VOTE** Simple Majority  
**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED “MAJORITY” YES**

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**VOTE**

☐ Unanimous ☒ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

**ARTICLE**

**5. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM CAPITAL RESERVE – GRANT MATCHING FUND FIRE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Capital Reserve Account a sum of \$48,000 to the Grant Matching Fund Fire, or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II

**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to transfer from Capital Reserve Account a sum of \$48,000 to the Grant Matching Fund Fire.

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	Yes	--

**EXPLANATION:** The fire department is applying for a grant to replace the out of service ladder truck and a 5% fund match is required. This request is for the town's matching fund for the apparatus. There is enough money in the Capital Reserve Fund for this request.

**VOTE** Simple Majority

**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED "UNANIMOUS" YES**

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**VOTE**

☒ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

**ARTICLE**

**6. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FREE CASH – TOWN BUILDING LIBRARY**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$8,400 to the Town Building Library Account (0010-196-5240-0013), or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II  
**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$8,400 to the Town Building Library Account (0010-196-5240-0013).

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

**EXPLANATION:** The elevator at the library has a door sensor and control panel issue that needs to be resolved. There is enough money in certified free cash to take care of this request.

**VOTE** Simple Majority  
**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED “UNANIMOUS” YES**

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**VOTE**

☒ Unanimous   ☐ Majority Voice   ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice   ☐ Count   \_\_\_\_\_Yays   \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

**ARTICLE**

**7. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FREE CASH – SCHOOL CAPITAL**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$88,756 to the School Capital Account FY21, or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II -Amend amount to original amount requested of \$105,210.  
**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$105,210 to the School Capital Account FY21, or act in relation thereto:

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	Yes	--

**EXPLANATION:** The town is obligated to pay a share of certain capital costs for the schools. There is enough money in certified free cash to take care of this obligation. The amount was originally reduced due to the loss in motor vehicle excise taxes this past year, but after further discussion with the school administration and review of our current free cash amount, we can fully fund the town's FY21 share of the capital cost to the amount originally requested.

**VOTE** Simple Majority  
**REQUIRED:**

**MOTION TO AMEND AND VOTE PASSED "MAJORITY" YES**

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**VOTE**

☐ Unanimous ☒ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays



**ARTICLE**

**8. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FREE CASH – HIGHWAY REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$415,958 to the Highway Repairs and Maintenance account (#0010-420-5240-0000) or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II

**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$415,958 to the Highway Repairs and Maintenance account (#0010-420-5240-0000).

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	Yes	--

**EXPLANATION:** The pavement management plan requests these funds in order to work on various streets shown in the plan starting in the spring of 2021. There is enough money in certified free cash to take care of this request.

**VOTE** Simple Majority

**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED “Unanimous” YES**

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**VOTE**

☒ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

**ARTICLE**

**9. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FREE CASH – HIGHWAY REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$72,000 to the Highway Repairs and Maintenance account (#0010-420-5240-0000), or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II

**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$72,000 to the Highway Repairs and Maintenance account (#0010-420-5240-0000).

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	Yes	--

**EXPLANATION:** The increase is due to an increase in the design for Route 101 South project. Requirements for drainage and payroll estimates have increased from the 2017 estimate. There is enough money in certified free cash to take care of this request.

**VOTE** Simple Majority

**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED “Unanimous” YES**

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**VOTE**

☒ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

**ARTICLE**

**10. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FREE CASH – ACCOUNTANT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$10,000 to the Accountant Professional and Technical Account (0010-135-5300-0000), or act in relation thereto:

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II  
**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of \$10,000 to the Accountant Professional and Technical Account (0010-135-5300-0000).

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

**EXPLANATION:** The town accountant's contract had to be amended to include additional responsibilities resulting in an increased workload requiring additional funding. There is enough money in certified free cash to take care of this obligation.

**VOTE** Simple Majority  
**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED "UNANIMOUS" YES**

**VOTE**

☒ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

**ARTICLE**

**11. TRANSFER FUNDS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – ADVISORY BOARD RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the remaining balance of \$74,460.35 from the appropriation made under Article 11 of the Special Town Meeting held on October 25, 2016 and to transfer said balance to Advisory Board Reserve Fund (#0010-132-5780-0000), or act in relation thereto.

**MOTION MADE** -- Leo Janssens II  
**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:** -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:** I move that the town vote to rescind the remaining balance of \$74,460.35 from the appropriation made under Article #11 of the Special Town Meeting held on October 25, 2016 and to transfer said balance to Advisory Board Reserve Fund (#0010-132-5780-0000).

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

**EXPLANATION:** The Town's Economic Development Fund was originally established to hire a part-time planner to help develop a Master Plan, seek other funding, and generally advance the town's redevelopment plans. Unfortunately hiring and maintaining a planner is not feasible in the foreseeable future so, the TA is requesting that the remaining balance be transferred to the Advisory Reserve Board Reserve Fund. If these funds are unspent in the advisory board reserve fund at the end of this fiscal year, the funds will be part of next year's free cash and be available for transfer to another purpose at a future town meeting.

**VOTE** Simple Majority  
**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED "UNANIMOUS" YES**

**VOTE**

☒ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

## **ARTICLE**

### **12. Town Accept Land Donation**

To see if the town will vote to accept the donation of certain land located on the Northerly side of West Shore Drive; being the same land shown as Lot 719 on a plan entitled: "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Far Hills, Section No. 7 in Ashburnham, Mass., developed by Sunset Lake Development Corp., Dunn Road, Ashburnham, Mass., drawn by Alden S. Marble and Assoc., dated June 22, 1965, and recorded with the Worcester North Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 134/Page 24, said parcel being further bounded and described as follows:

NORTHERLY      By land now or formerly of Sunset Lake Development Corp., a distance of eighty, (80.00) feet;

EASTERLY      By Lot 717, a distance of one hundred sixty, (160.00) feet.

SOUTHERLY      By West Shore Drive, a distance of eighty, (80.00) feet.

WESTERLY      By Lot 721, a distance of one hundred sixty, (160.00) feet.

Containing 12,800 square feet, more or less."

Being the same parcel conveyed to Terrance J. Reidy and Louise Reidy by deed of North Atlantic Properties, Inc., recorded in said Registry on May 29, 1975, in Book 114/Page 491;

and further to transfer the care, custody management and control of said land to the Board of Selectmen for sale or other use or disposition in the best interests of the town, or act in relation thereto.

**MOTION MADE**    -- Leo Janssens II

**BY:**

**SECONDED BY:**    -- Joe Oliveira

**MOTION:**

I move that the town vote to accept the donation of the land located on the Northerly side of West Shore Drive as printed in the warrant article, and that the town vote to transfer the care, custody management and

control of said land to the Board of Selectmen for sale or other use or disposition in the best interests of the town.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: <b>Yes</b>	ADVISORY RECOMMEND: <b>Yes</b>	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND: --	TAX RATE IMPACT: --
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**EXPLANATION:** This article would allow the Town to acquire a parcel of land that is situated between two other town owned properties which were acquired by tax taking. Aquiring the parcel in this manner is more cost effective than through the tax taking process.

**VOTE** Simple Majority  
**REQUIRED:**

**VOTE PASSED “UNANIMOUS” YES**

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**VOTE**

☒ Unanimous   ☐ Majority Voice   ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice   ☐ Count   \_\_\_\_\_ Yays   \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:30 P.M.